
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 4422

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By House Committee on Health Care (originally sponsored by Representatives Schual-Berke, Campbell, Cody, Skinner, Benson, Jackley and Haigh)

Read first time 02/08/2002. Referred to Committee on .

1 WHEREAS, An adequate supply of health care personnel is of critical
2 importance to the well-being of Washington residents; and

3 WHEREAS, Washington state is facing a growing public health crisis
4 because of a shortage of health care personnel; and

5 WHEREAS, The shortage of health care personnel threatens the
6 ability of Washington residents to continue to obtain quality,
7 accessible health care;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the House of Representatives,
9 the Senate concurring, That a Health Care Personnel Task Force is
10 established at the Work Force Training and Education Coordinating
11 Board. The task force shall consist of no more than twenty members
12 appointed in the following manner:

13 (1) Two members from the House of Representatives, one from the
14 majority party and one from the minority party, to be appointed by the
15 Speaker of the House;

16 (2) Two members from the Senate, one from the majority party and
17 one from the minority party, to be appointed by the President of the
18 Senate;

19 (3) One member shall represent hospitals, to be appointed by the
20 Governor;

1 (4) One member shall represent public hospital districts, to be
2 appointed by the Governor;

3 (5) One member shall represent nurses, to be appointed by the
4 Governor;

5 (6) One member shall represent physicians, to be appointed by the
6 Governor;

7 (7) One member shall represent dentists, to be appointed by the
8 Governor;

9 (8) One member shall represent allied health professionals with
10 documented shortages, to be appointed by the Governor;

11 (9) One member shall represent long-term care providers, to be
12 appointed by the Governor;

13 (10) One member shall represent community and migrant health
14 centers, to be appointed by the Governor;

15 (11) One member shall represent the Washington State Department of
16 Health;

17 (12) One member shall represent the Work Force Training and
18 Education Coordinating Board;

19 (13) One member shall represent the Higher Education Coordinating
20 Board;

21 (14) One member shall represent the State Board for Community and
22 Technical Colleges;

23 (15) One member shall represent the Office of Superintendent of
24 Public Instruction;

25 (16) One member shall represent organized labor, to be appointed by
26 the Governor;

27 (17) One member shall represent the state board of health; and

28 (18) The Governor shall appoint a chairperson of the task force who
29 has no connection to the health care industry and who shall represent
30 the public at large; and

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That within available funds, the Work Force
32 Training and Education Coordinating Board or lead agency for a specific
33 technical advisory committee may hire staff. The task force may
34 appoint technical advisory committees and contract for professional
35 assistance. State agencies, the Senate, and the House of
36 Representatives may provide staff support upon request of the task
37 force. The Work Force Training and Education Coordinating Board, for
38 these efforts, has authority to seek and expend funds from private
39 foundations and professional associations and institutions; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That in the conduct of its business, the
2 task force shall have reasonable access to health care personnel and
3 related work force data available to all state agencies. All state
4 agencies shall provide the task force with all requested health
5 personnel data and other relevant work force information maintained by
6 their agencies in a timely manner; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the task force shall develop a
8 Washington state strategic plan for ensuring an adequate supply of
9 health care personnel, including physicians, dentists, nurses,
10 pharmacists, and other health providers with documented shortages, and
11 coordinating efforts to address health care personnel shortages that
12 will safeguard the ability of the health care delivery system in
13 Washington state to provide quality, accessible health care to
14 residents of Washington, which shall:

15 (1) Identify ways to increase the capacity of health professions'
16 training programs to prepare students to meet the increasing need for
17 health care personnel;

18 (2) Identify ways to improve the marketing and outreach of the
19 health professions and improve recruitment of and support for students
20 interested in them;

21 (3) Recommend changes to streamline entry to practice regulations
22 and requirements. The task force shall not entertain discussions on
23 changes to existing scopes of practice;

24 (4) Recommend changes to federal and state statutes and regulations
25 that prevent stimulating and rewarding practice environments;

26 (5) Recommend ways to increase the diversity of health professions,
27 engage families transitioning from welfare to work, and encourage other
28 currently unemployed workers to seek jobs in the health care
29 industries; and

30 (6) Recommend strategies to maximize and leverage public and
31 private efforts to address health care personnel shortages; and

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the task force shall submit an interim
33 report to the Governor and the Legislature on or before December 31,
34 2002, and a final report to include a state strategic plan by December
35 31, 2003. The task force shall cease to exist on December 31, 2003.

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